

shock at the gas pump, where the cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent from this time last year. Gas is up 61 percent.

Purposely moving forward with another massive multitrillion-dollar spending package, Democrats continue to ignore these very troubling inflation concerns. American workers, families, and small businesses deserve better.

In the face of a volatile economy, we should prioritize fiscal responsibility and offer solutions to the inflation crisis, not make it worse and fan the flames of inflation by injecting trillions of dollars of borrowed Federal money into the economy.

CELEBRATING MARS WRIGLEY FLOWERY BRANCH PLANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mars Wrigley plant in the city of Flowery Branch, in the Ninth District of Georgia.

The plant opened back in 1971, becoming one of the very first confection factories in northern Georgia. Now, it is the manufacturing hub for the company's iconic gum brands, producing 75 percent of the chewing gum volume for the North American market.

Currently, the plant employs over 920 associates, of which 250 have been with Mars Wrigley for over 20 years. Due to their hard work, this factory is one of the fastest growing manufacturing plants in the State of Georgia, and has been recognized as such by the chamber of commerce for its impact on the Hall County community.

In fact, Mars Wrigley continues to go the extra mile by giving back to the local community, regularly volunteering in clean-ups, Christmas gift donations, and food banks.

Congratulations, Mars Wrigley, on 50 productive years in northern Georgia, and best wishes for another prolific half century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING AARON CLAY, TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Aaron Clay, who was named the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Athletic Director of the Year.

Aaron Clay is the athletics director at the Washburn School. He graduated from Washburn in 1997. His brother, Greg, hired him shortly after graduating to help the school's basketball team.

Since returning to coach the basketball team, Director Clay led several of Washburn's athletic teams to success. He coached two basketball teams to the substate tournament, won two dis-

trict titles in basketball, and sent a cross-country student athlete to the State championship meet for five straight years.

Mr. Speaker, under Director Clay's leadership, the school recently completed a new gymnasium. Away from athletics, Director Clay also leads Washburn's academic curriculum as an assistant principal. In his academic role, he once again teamed up with his brother, Greg, who is Washburn's principal.

The TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year award celebrates an athletic director who builds up students on and off the field and, clearly, he does this, Mr. Speaker.

Director Clay's work throughout his career as a school administrator and athletic director positively influenced hundreds of Washburn students. Our community is proud of the impact he has had on young people.

Congratulations, Director Clay, and keep up the good work.

HUGE VICTORY FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, individual freedom just scored a huge victory. Last weekend, a court of appeals ruled what we already know. Joe Biden overstepped his authority with his vaccine mandate. No more jobs will be threatened by the administration over coronavirus vaccination status, for now.

I applaud those who stood up to Biden's vaccine mandate in court. But the fight isn't over, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly not over. Biden's far-left Justice Department is plotting a legal assault to revive the mandate. Those of us who value personal liberty cannot be content with one court ruling.

More action is necessary, Mr. Speaker.

My bill, the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, which is sponsored in the Senate by Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, also from Tennessee, would further protect American workers by forbidding certain employers from firing unvaccinated employees.

We need to ban Biden's vaccine mandate because it is unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker, but also because of the crippling effect it will have on our economy.

For example, supply chain jobs will be lost if Biden's vaccine mandate takes effect. A labor shortage in the supply chains means it takes longer to move products to America's storefronts, Mr. Speaker. The costs of keeping up with demand is passed to consumers in the form of higher prices.

If Biden gets his way, it will devastate our struggling economy and steal paychecks from hardworking Americans, Mr. Speaker. Congress can't wait for the Biden administration's next attack on the unvaccinated. Let's protect the civil liberties of the workers by passing the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Equip us, O Lord, this day with the full armor You provide, that we would be confident to stand for whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right and pure.

May these, Your divine intentions, be the principles we strive to preserve this day. In everything we do, with Your steadfast love as our foundation, may we stand unwavering.

Gird us then with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness. Prepare us to give testimony to Your peace and to hold high a defense of faith in Your gracious plan.

Protect us with the covering of Your deliverance and attune our hearts to the piercing insight of Your word.

May Your confidence in us not be in vain, but may we prove worthy in wielding the power of Your mercy.

Then may all those who seek to undermine decency, who rejoice in rancor and capitalize on conflict, may they all fall defenseless before Your throne of grace.

For it is only in Your grace that we find hope and by the power of Your name are we able to pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.